

Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission & Berkeley County Sheriff's Office



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, March 10, 2022

SC Forestry Commission employee arrested on arson charges

MONCKS CORNER, S.C.—Berkeley County Sheriff's detectives have arrested a South Carolina Forestry Commission employee on charges related to a string of suspicious wildfires in northern Berkeley County near the Francis Marion National Forest in January and February.

Brad Chance, 52, a forestry technician who worked for the agency in Berkeley and Charleston counties, was taken into custody Thursday after a joint investigation by SCFC law enforcement and the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. He is charged with three counts of willfully burning lands of another.

A resident of St. Stephen, Chance was hired by the Forestry Commission in February 2021. He has been suspended without pay, pending a South Carolina Forestry Commission investigation.

Chance will appear at a bond hearing before a Berkeley County magistrate Friday, March 11.



Brad Chance

REFERENCE: SC CODE OF LAWS SECTION 16-11-170. Willfully burning lands of another.

It is unlawful for a person to willfully and maliciously set fire to or burn any grass, brush, or other combustible matter, causing any woods, fields, fences, or marshes of another person to be set on fire or cause the burning or fire to spread to or to be transmitted to the lands of another, or to aid or assist in such conduct.

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Forestry and timber-related businesses constitute one of the largest industries in South Carolina. The South Carolina Forestry Commission is committed to protecting the Palmetto State's public and private forest resources, crimes against which cost landowners millions of dollars each year. To report a suspected case of timber theft, fraud or arson, call the South Carolina Forestry Commission at (803) 896-8800.